

S.J. Res. 34. A joint resolution congratulating and commending the Veterans of Foreign Wars; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

VFW DAY JOINT RESOLUTION

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation honoring the centennial of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States, which will occur on the 29th of this month.

Earlier this year, the Senate passed my legislation designating September 29, 1999, as "National VFW Day." I would like to express my sincere appreciation to my colleagues for joining me in honoring the more than 2 million members of the VFW, and urge the approval of this legislation, which congratulates all members of the VFW on the occasion of the organization's centennial. Similar legislation passed the House on June 29 and awaits approval by the Senate. I hope that we can pass this legislation before September 29 in order to pay tribute to these brave protectors of liberty.

As I indicated, September 29, 1999, marks the centennial of the VFW. As veterans of the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection of 1899 and the China Relief Expedition of 1900 returned home, they drew together in order to preserve the ties of comradeship forged in service to their country.

They began by forming local groups to secure rights and benefits for the service they rendered to our country. In Columbus, OH, veterans founded the American Veterans of Foreign Service. In Denver, CO, veterans started the Colorado Society of the Army of the Philippines. In 1901, the Philippine War Veterans organization was started by the Philippine Veterans in Altoona and Pittsburgh, PA. In 1913, these varied organizations with a common mission joined forces as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. I am truly honored to salute this proud organization.

The joint resolution I am introducing today recognizes the unselfish service VFW members have rendered over the last 100 years to the Armed Forces, to our communities, and other veterans. It also highlights the historic significance of this important day in the lives of so many veterans, and calls upon the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the anniversary of the VFW and the contributions made by the VFW to our Nation.

I have nothing but the utmost respect for those who have served their country. With this legislation, we say "thank you" the men and women and their families who have served this country with courage, honor and distinction. They answered the call to duty when their country needed them, and this is but a small token of our appreciation.

The centennial of the founding of the VFW will present all Americans with an opportunity to honor and pay tribute to the VFW and to all veterans. I thank my colleagues for joining me in

a strong show of support and an expression of thanks to the VFW and all veterans. •

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 35

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 35, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for the long-term care insurance costs of all individuals who are not eligible to participate in employer-subsidized long-term care health plans.

S. 53

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 53, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a reduction in the capital gain rates for all taxpayers and a partial dividend income exclusion for individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 329

At the request of Mr. ROBB, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 329, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend eligibility for hospital care and medical services under chapter 17 of that title to veterans who have been awarded the Purple Heart, and for other purposes.

S. 348

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 348, a bill to authorize and facilitate a program to enhance training, research and development, energy conservation and efficiency, and consumer education in the oilheat industry for the benefit of oilheat consumers and the public, and for other purposes.

S. 371

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 371, a bill to provide assistance to the countries in Central America and the Caribbean affected by Hurricane Mitch and Hurricane Georges, to provide additional trade benefits to certain beneficiary countries in the Caribbean, and for other purposes.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. GORTON, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 386, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for tax-exempt bond financing of certain electric facilities.

S. 660

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 660, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under part B of the medicare program of medical nutrition therapy services furnished by reg-

istered dietitians and nutrition professionals.

S. 758

At the request of Mr. ASHCROFT, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MACK) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) were added as cosponsors of S. 758, a bill to establish legal standards and procedures for the fair, prompt, inexpensive, and efficient resolution of personal injury claims arising out of asbestos exposure, and for other purposes.

S. 914

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 914, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to require that discharges from combined storm and sanitary sewers conform to the Combined Sewer Overflow Control Policy of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes.

S. 956

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 956, a bill to establish programs regarding early detection, diagnosis, and interventions for newborns and infants with hearing loss.

S. 1016

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1016, a bill to provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions.

S. 1053

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1053, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to incorporate certain provisions of the transportation conformity regulations, as in effect on March 1, 1999.

S. 1070

At the request of Mr. BOND, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1070, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to wait for completion of a National Academy of Sciences study before promulgating a standard, regulation or guideline on ergonomics.

S. 1133

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG), and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1133, a bill to amend the Poultry Products Inspection Act to cover birds of the order Ratitae that are raised for use as human food.

S. 1140

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1140, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to issue regulations to eliminate or minimize the significant risk of needlestick injury to health care workers.

S. 1155

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1155, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for uniform food safety warning notification requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 1277

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1277, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to establish a new prospective payment system for Federally-qualified health centers and rural health clinics.

S. 1333

At the request of Mr. BENNETT, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. BRYAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1333, a bill to expand homeownership in the United States.

S. 1419

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. GRAMM), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1419, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to designate May as "National Military Appreciation Month."

S. 1449

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1449, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase the payment amount for renal dialysis services furnished under the medicare program.

S. 1473

At the request of Mr. ROBB, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1473, a bill to amend section 2007 of the Social Security Act to provide grant funding for additional Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities, and Strategic Planning Communities, and for other purposes.

S. 1500

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mr. GORTON) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1500, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an additional payment for services provided to certain high-cost individuals under the prospective payment system for skilled nursing facility services, and for other purposes.

S. 1517

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. GRAMS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1517, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure that

Medicare beneficiaries have continued access under current contracts to managed health care by extending the Medicare cost contract program for 3 years.

S. 1520

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1520, a bill to amend the U.S. Holocaust Assets Commission Act of 1998 to extend the period by which the final report is due and to authorize additional funding.

S. 1547

At the request of Mr. BURNS, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 1547, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require the Federal Communications Commission to preserve low-power television stations that provide community broadcasting, and for other purposes.

S. 1568

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1568, a bill imposing an immediate suspension of assistance to the Government of Indonesia until the results of the August 30, 1999, vote in East Timor have implemented, and for other purposes.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

At the request of Mr. THURMOND, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 1, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to voluntary school prayer.

SENATE RESOLUTION 99

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. NICKLES) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 99, a resolution designating November 20, 1999, as "National Survivors for Prevention of Suicide Day."

SENATE RESOLUTION 172

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 172, a resolution to establish a special committee of the Senate to address the cultural crisis facing America.

SENATE RESOLUTION 179

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 179, a resolution designating October 15, 1999, as "National Mammography Day."

AMENDMENT NO. 1744

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1744 proposed to H.R.

2684, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1747

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1747 proposed to H.R. 2684, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1755

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. ROTH), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. GRAMS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1755 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2684, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

ASHCROFT AMENDMENT NO. 1787

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. ASHCROFT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (H.R. 2684) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 17, between lines 14 and 15, insert the following:

SEC. 108. (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Veterans Benefits Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs is responsible for the timely and accurate processing of claims for veterans compensation and pension.

(2) The accuracy of claims processing within the Veterans Benefits Administration has been a subject of concern to Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(3) While the Veterans Benefits Administration has reported in the past a 95 percent accuracy rate in processing claims, a new accuracy measurement system known as the